(a) whether any representations have been received from foreign companies to make existing regulations in the food processing industries sector in consonance with the rules in force in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Grass-Root Level Planning and Implementation in Meghalaya

1845. SHRI ONWARD. L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that grass-root level planning and implementation has been reduced to the minimum extent in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, when Gvoernment issued instructions to transfer more and more schemes from the Block Level to the District Rural Development Agencies in Meghalaya; and

(c) whether Government are proposing to instruct the State Government to open up more grass-root level planning and implementation by the Block Development Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Government of India have been emphasising on different states to take planning to the grass-root level so as to ensure involvement of people in the gigantic task of development. The NDC Committee on Micro-level planning had also emphasised to transfer sufficient resoruces to sub-state level planning bodies. It is for different State Govetnments including Government of Meghalaya to confer suitable administrative and financial powers to different bodies involved in the task of planning at different levels. Government of India have not issued any instructions to transfer more schemes from the Block level to the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Specific details regarding the delegation of powers by different State Governments to sub-district level planning bodies are not monitored by the Planning Commission.

Losses of State Electricity Boards

1846. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the losses suffered by State Electricity Boards due to power thefts, bridery and corruption every year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) T&D losses for All India Utilities during 1994-95 were 20.85% (Provisional) of the power available. A number of steps have been initiated to reduce T&D losses which include improving Transmission & Distribution systems, install capacitors for reactive compensation, carry out energy audits to pinpoint system elements responsible for high losses, thefts etc. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offense. May other steps to streamline the working of SEBs including restructuring them have also been initiated in several states.

Multi-pronged strategy to check infiltrations in J&K

1847. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-pronged strategy has been adopted by the BSF along the borders in J&K to check infiltrations: